ensured that the benefits of subsidised cotton yarn reaches the handloom weavers.

[English]

Purchase of Cotton by CCI

*498. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total purchase made by Cotton Corporation of India from various cotton-growing States during the current year; and

(b) the total quantity of cotton exported by Cotton Corporation of India against the purchase made during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Statewise purchases of cotton by CCI from various cotton growing States in the current year i.e. 1995-96 (Sept.-Aug.) have been as under :

States	(As on 19.8.96) Qnty. Purchased
	(in bales of 170 kg. each)
Punjab	1,22,388
Haryana	72,783
Rajasthan	1,22,958
Gujarat	2,31,730
Madhya Pradesh	2,23,653
Andhra Pradesh	2,11,291
Karnataka	23,715
Tamil Nadu	2,013
Others	5,424
Total	10,15,955

(b) Total export and purchase of cotton by CCI during the last three years are as under :

Year	Qnty. Purchased (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)	Qnty. Exported (in lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1992-93	11.86	6.06
1993-94	7.76*	1.46
1994-95	8.43	0.085

*Excludes 65,300 Bales purchased from Maharashtra State Co-op. Cotton Growers Mktg. for production of Hank Yarn for distribution among Handloom Weavers

Foreign Borrowings

*499. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to fix any limit of the amount of borrowings by Union Government from foreign countries/institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for fixing any limit of the amount of borrowings by the Union Government from multilateral and bilateral foreign donors.

Union Government borrows from multilateral and bilateral dononrs for the country's economic development. However, country's external debt burden and debt servicing liability are always kept in view while contracting new loans.

Non-Viable Branches of G.I.C.

*500 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) propose to close down non-viable branches of its subsidiaries;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to merge non-viable branches with the viable ones;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the other alternatives proposed to be taken to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The General Insurance Corporation (GIC) have informed that presently no such proposal is under their consideration.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Insurance Cover to Construction Workers

4425. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether insurance cover has been extended to the construction workers of Railways in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the States that have implemented the scheme so far; and

(c) the number of workers likely to be covered under this scheme Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Speedy Trials

4426. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "S.C. ruling to help speedy trial" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated August 5, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to direct the State Governments to implement the said ruling for speedy disposal of pending cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) Article 141 of the Constitution of India provides that the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India.

Amendment in R.P. Act, 1950

4427. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Representation of the Peoples Act, 1950 in the light of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(b) if so, the details of action/decision taken/proposed to be taken in this regard, in view of impending elections in J&K and U.P.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b). Important recommendations of Dinesh Goswami Committee which, by and large, have already been implemented are given in the *Statement* attached. At present, there is no proposal to further amend the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1950 before elections in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh in the light of the recommendations made by the Goswami Committee.

STATEMENT

Important recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami Committee already implemented by the Government

1. Constitution of the Election Commission into a three member body.
2. The tenure of CEC and other Election Commissioners made six years or sixty-five years of age, whichever is earlier.
3. Issuance of photo identity cards to voters.
4. Use of Electronic Voting Machines in elections.
5. Enhancement of punishment for breach of official duty in connection with preparation of electoral rolls, etc.
6. Disqualification of a person held guilty under sections 2 and 3 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
7. Statutory backing to observers appointed by Election Commission of India and empowering them to direct Returning Officer, pending decision of the Election Commission, to stop counting or declaration of the result in case large scale booth capturing has taken place.
8. Increase in security deposit and laying down the requirement of ten proposers in case of an independent candidates.
9. Restriction on a candidate from contesting in more than two constituencies of the same class.
10. Arrangement of names of candidates of recognised political parties above the names of independent candidates on the ballot paper.